

Careful examination has also shown that silicious or flinty matter not only constitutes a large portion of all soils, but also the largest ingredient in the composition of oats, wheat, Indian corn, rye, and barley. It also demonstrates that certain other substances, of which lime is always one, are contained in these and other plants, a very large portion of it entering into the composition of clover and corn.

From these facts, it follows that the addition of lime to soils from which it is naturally absent, must confer upon them the power to produce those useful plants, especially corn and clover, so far as unproductiveness of them was caused by its absence.

The same may be said of potash, soda, magnesia, and certain acids, all of which are ingredients in most of the useful plants.

In this view of our soils, the presence of limestone in large quantities in any country, is second in value to that of no other mineral, not even excepting coal or iron.

For as the productions of the farmer are indispensable to persons in every business, and as the proper application of lime to the soils which are destitute of it will convert them into fruitful agricultural districts, the value of limestone must be beyond that of any mineral we possess.

Nor does this good effect alone follow the addition of lime, or any other single substance of which a soil happens to be deficient. The mixing of entire soils with each other often has the same result. For instance, the carting of a certain proportion of the surface of rich boggy or bottom land upon upland, or the reverse; the addition of pure sand to stiff clay fields, or the application of any other soil to one of an entirely dissimilar character, has generally the same beneficial effect.

In all these cases, the applied soil being dissimilar from that to which it is added, the chances are, even without the certainty of a scientific analysis, the productive substances have been obtained, and consequently that productiveness will be increased.

In this way there is great truth in the remark, that, in the hands of a judicious farmer, almost every farm contains, within its limits, means for its own fertilization.—[Exchange Paper.

PACKING APPLES FOR SEA VOYAGES.—The following method is described by a writer in the Farmer and Mechanic, which he adopted for packing fine and selected apples for exportation to England. When they arrived at Sheffield, every one was sound. The very finest only were selected, and the moisture, if any, carefully wiped off; each apple was then rolled in clean, dry, wrapping paper. The barrel was then thinly lined with straw, and the apples placed in as closely as possible, without jamming them, and then headed up. An inside lining hoop prevented all danger of the heads being knocked in by accident.

AGRICULTURE, says Socrates, is an employment the most worthy the application of man, the most ancient and the most suitable to his nature; it is the common nurse of all persons, in every age and condition of life: it is a source of health, strength, plenty and riches; and of a thousand sober delights and honest pleasures. It is the mistress and school of sobriety, temperance, justice, religion, and, in short, all virtue, civil and military.

A PROFITABLE DAIRY.—Mr. W. S. Euner, sold to Mr. Liversey, of Preston a few days ago, 38 cheeses, the produce of 13 cows in 38 days. The weight was 13½ cwt. and the price 62s. per cwt. giving a total of £12 12s. 6d.—[Lancaster Guardian.

Good fences make good neighbours.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. M., Bradford, received.

J. B., St. George, Woodstock, and Ingersoll. All received. Your expansive arrangements are judicious and cannot fail to produce extensive results. Cover the whole surface as quickly as convenience and discretion will permit.

T. H. N. It would not answer. Were we to make our journal monthly as you suggest, it would lose all the advantages of a newspaper, which form a new and decidedly attractive—*from its real value*—feature. In these days of Railroads and Magnetic Telegraphs, monthly journals, except of a decidedly literary character, are altogether behind the age. We assure our friend that we cannot go back to the old "dog trot" system. It is of too much importance that the Farmers be furnished with regular intelligence of the state of the markets, as often as the English news arrives.

W. A. S., received.

CANADA FARMER.

November 6, 1847.

VISIT TO GRAND ISLAND—MR. ALLEN'S DEVONS & SHORT HORNS—BERKSHIRE'S, BREMEN GEESSE, &c., &c., MR. SOTHAM'S HEREFORDS &c.

Business having detained us at Buffalo for a few days, since our last issue, we enjoyed the high gratification of spending one of them with Mr. L. F. Allen in the examination of his Farm and Stock on Grand Island, a most delightful spot in the Niagara River. This Island is about 12 miles in length, is heavily timbered and of a rich loamy soil. The upper end of the Island where Mr. A's farm is situated is within sight of the spires and chimneys of Buffalo and commands a most lovely landscape. On either side flows the noble river, tame and peaceful, giving here, no indication of the rage and fury with which it allows itself to be overcome only a few miles below. To the right are the well cleared fields and comfortable farm residences of Her Majesty's subjects in the township of Bertie. On the left is the American shore studded with neat white houses, while along the margin of the stream the Canal boats drawn by two and three horses *ad tandem* are constantly passing. In the foreground is Black Rock, two miles distant but distinctly in view. Two or three little Islands diversify the landscape in that direction and afford covert for the sportsman in pursuit of the Wild Ducks that abound in the neighbourhood.—Mr. A. talks of building a residence on an elevated piece of ground at the head of the Island, and with such delightful scenery all around, removed from the smoke and din and noisome influences of the city, and yet within reach of all its real advantages, it seems to us the very spot for a little Paradise.

We were so fortunate as to make acquaintance with Mr. W. H. Sotham, another distinguished breeder, who has lately removed from the neighbourhood of Albany and rented a large dairy farm on the banks of the Niagara, a short distance from Black Rock. Mr. Sotham's favorite breed is the Hereford, which, he contends, is better adapted to this country than either the Short Horns or Devons. After looking at some very fine calves, a splendid four year old heifer, which had just given birth to her first calf, and an old cow, imported by Mr. S. from England, we, in company with the latter gentleman, seated ourselves in Mr. Allen's boat, and "set sail" for the Island. The first thing that attracted our attention was a small herd of Berkshire hogs. They were all young, and not remarkably large for their age. Their ancestors were selected from some of the best in England, and imported by Mr. Allen's brother. Mr. A. is trying a cross with the Suffolk breed, which bids fair to do well. The Berkshire is a beautiful animal, small bone, light ossal, a ready disposition to fatten, and makes sweet, tender pork; but it seems that they have not generally done well, nor, in many cases, answered the expectations of those who have tried them. Mr. A. says they have not degenerated in his hands, but it has not been so with others. The truth is, the best breeds of domestic animals, as well as the best varieties of grain and vegetables, require the best manage-

ment; a constant application of skill and care to maintain, and perpetuate their superior qualities. The man who lays out large sums of money to stock his farm with Durham, Devon, or Hereford cattle, Berkshire pigs, and South Down, Leicester, or Costwold sheep, and then pursues the same old system of neglect; leaving every thing to take care of itself; or, when he does interfere, obstructing nature's efforts instead of helping or taking advantage of them; allowing the butcher to cull his flocks of the best—the conservative individuals, whose superior character would keep up the general standard, had much better invest his capital in some other way. Not but that the improved breeds will, even in bad hands and under the operation of degenerating causes, still maintain a superiority over the common kinds in like circumstances, but the difference will not be sufficient to justify their original expense. The tendency of everything of this kind is downward. It would seem to be a part of the "pneumonic curse" that those products of the animal and vegetable kingdom essential to man's existence, should demand his constant care, and the exercise of his highest skill to prevent them from "running out."

The plan of Mr. A's barn pleased us very much, though its position near the edge of the river does not facilitate the increase or add much to the value of the manure heap. He intends removing it to a situation where his yard will not be so well drained as at present. The main building is about 100 feet long with a narrow floor extending through it lengthwise. On each side is a mow, also running the whole length of the barn, except a space of 4 or 5 feet at each end for a passage. A lean-to is attached to each side of the main building wide enough to admit of a passage next the barn and along by the head of the Cattle, and another passage behind them. These lean-to's are done off into stalls about 7 feet wide, boarded up as high as a cow's back with a manger in front and a tight box or trough in each corner. Two cows stand in a stall, and being tied to rings at the opposite corners, cannot injure or eat the food of one another. The sides of the barn under the lean-to's are not boarded, so that feed from any part of the mow may be readily thrown into the passage before the cattle. A room is partitioned off in the end of one of the mows for storing corn, grain, pumpkins, &c., that may be required for, perhaps, a week's supply. By this plan you can go before or behind your cattle as occasion may require. If any more hay is thrown down than is necessary it may be left in the passage and is neither trampled nor breathed upon. Small quantities can be given at a time, (the best mode of feeding) and the mangers replenished without causing the great additional labour that must be encountered under the usual arrangements.

As a stock-barn we do not think this plan could be much improved. There is nothing expensive, complicated, or fanciful in its construction; its excellence consists in the simplicity and handiness of its arrangements. After looking at some beautiful Bremen Geese, half as large again as the common kind, we proceeded to the field to see the cattle. The first we came to was a fine lot of calves, Durhams, Devons and their grades. And here arose an interesting discussion as to the proper treatment of young cattle. Mr. Allen contended that calves should not be "forced," that they should be fed moderately, neither made fat nor allowed to get poor, but kept in a good, healthy, growing condition. He did not allow his to suck one cow long, much less two. Mr. Sotham agreed to this doctrine, and in the presence of two such experienced and noted breeders we were very chary of expressing an opinion, we only ventured to ask questions. It occurred to us that the system which our friends were so warmly advocating was just the system that is practised by ordinary farmers, and we wished to know why it was not attended with better results? "Ah, that's in the breed.

You can't get good animals from worthless parents." There it is again. Short Horn, and Hereford men wont admit that there is any excellence in the poor "native." No "good can come out of Nazareth." Now, assenting generally to the proposition that the young animal should be allowed to develop itself without the aid of extra doses of rich food, and that the forcing system must ultimately have a pernicious effect upon it for milking, & breeding purposes at all events, yet we think that in rearing the improved and native breeds, the difference in the result is not wholly owing to the difference of breed. The truth is the same system is not followed in both cases. Though native calves are seldom injured by over feeding, they are frequently stunted, and we believe it is better to err on the side of too much, than too little. The breeder of the "pure bloods" is careful to select the best animals for stock getting. He never uses an inferior bull and has to wait some time and reject a half dozen or more, before he finds one that will answer his purpose and with which he can hope to keep up the character of his stock. The individuals that don't come up to his standard he turns into beef and sends to the slaughter house. Every now and then he procures a bull from another herd and of a different family. By judicious crossing, and careful *pruning* and good feeding, he is able to breed good stock. With high excellence to begin with in the ancestor, he succeeds in retaining it in the descendant. Now, who will say that this system would not improve our natives—would not in time make them equal to any imported stock? Take the best that can be found to begin with, and on the principle that "like begets like," a rule that works both ways, how long would it be before we should have an improved breed of natives like Col. Jacques' "Cream pots" capable of transmitting their good qualities with as much certainty as any other? But it may be asked what need then of importing Durhams, &c., at great expense, and paying high prices for their stock? For the simple reason that in them we have ready to our hand what has cost long years of labor and skill to produce, and what can not be accomplished by any shorter method now. Their good qualities, as far as they can be, are established. We have a vantage ground to start from, and thus time and expense, and an exercise of skill that very few of us have, are dispensed with. But the fact that some skill is required to prevent the good qualities of the pure bloods from running out, is of itself proof that they are not a superior race in their original—that they are not an "old aristocracy" whose inherent nobility reaches back to the days of William the Conqueror. The practical conclusion that we are driving at is just this: Let us have good stock, the best we can get, because they are the most profitable. The "improved breeds" are the best, the several kinds according to the purposes for which they are wanted. Therefore, let us procure one of the improved breeds. But without spoiling our syllogism, we must add this conclusion; where we are not able to stock our farm with Durhams, Devons or Ayrshires, let us not neglect the natives; especially let us not do so under the notion that they are incapable of improvement, that between them and the former there is an "impassable gulph." Time and care will enable us to cross it.

In Mr. Allen's herd we saw many fine animals, though none of them were in what might be called high condition. They run through a large range of pasture, (most of the land being newly-cleared, during the day, and at this season are shut up at night, and fed upon pumpkins and a little hay. They all give milk, which is sent twice a day to Buffalo and sold to the dealers who keep what they call "milk depots," where it is purchased by the citizens. Mr. A's Devons pleased us more than his Short Horns, the latter of which, with a few exceptions, seem to us to have suffered from the numerous "drafts," that have been made for the service of the State.

The fame of Mr. A's herd has attracted